from the grounded ship is environmentally approved by Government;

(b) whether Government are aware of any side effects/toxic effects on marine life and consequently on human lives;

(c) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to defuse hazard to environment; and

(d) whether these dispersant agents were chemically tested and approved for such use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) 1040 tonnes of crude oil from the grounded ship off Goa was pumped out from the ship to road tankers without any spillage taking place. Very minor quantities of oil remaining in some inaccessible corners of the tanks and pipelines on the ship were dispersed by using chemical dispersants approved by National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa.

(b) There are no side effects/toxic effects on marine life from the dispersant used which has been tested to be non toxic.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The dispersant named "Atlas OSD" in question is indigenously manufactured and has been tested and approved by N.I.O. for use.

**Allotment of waste and Forest lands**

2060. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give waste and forest lands to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to allot such land to the landless marginal small and medium farmers as well as educated unemployed and to the persons belonging to weaker sections of the society;

(d) if so, how much of such land was allotted to these people in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for giving waste and degraded forests lands to private companies/parties. However, in view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and halt soil denudation, and also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts and the financial resources available for afforestation schemes of the Central and State Governments, NGOs and people's cooperatives.

(c) to (e) In accordance with the National Forest Policy and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, diversion of forest land for nonforestry purposes is allowed subject to raising of compensatory afforestation at the project cost only if such diversion is for area specific projects, no alternate non forests site is available and economic and social benefits far outweigh the likely adverse impact of such diversion on environment. However, local villagers are being associated for afforestation and regeneration of degraded forests in accordance with detailed guidelines issued in this regard on 1.6.1990, as part of the Joint Forest Management effort.